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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,364	12/22/2003	Harry S. Sowden	MCP0293-DIV2	7973
27777	7590	03/15/2006	EXAMINER	
PHILIP S. JOHNSON JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			DAVIS, ROBERT B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1722	
DATE MAILED: 03/15/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,364

Applicant(s)

SOWDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Robert B. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 and 40-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 and 40-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 1, line 1, the status of the parent application must be updated to reflect the patent number.

Page 11, line 6 to page 12, line 6, contains text that is outlined by a rectangle and shaded. This portion of the text should be resubmitted without the outlining and shading. Clean replacement sheets are required.

Page 21, line 27, after serial no. there is a blank space which must be filled in to reflect the serial number of the related application which has the docket number MCP 274.

Page 58, lines 20 and 29-31, contains text which is outlined and shaded. A clean replacement sheet is required.

Page 62, lines 26-27, contains text which is outlined and shaded. A clean replacement sheet is required.

Page 63, lines 15-26, contains text which is outlined and shaded. A clean replacement sheet is required.

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct

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from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 13-20 and 40-47 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13-20 of copending Application No. 10/734,337. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims have substantial overlapping subject matter. Claim 13 of the instant application is fully encompassed by claim 16 of 10/734,337. The instant "powder recovery system for removing excess powder from the vicinity of the die cavity" is encompassed by the phrase "means for recovering powder trapped by said filter" Claim 40 of the instant application is fully encompassed by claim 15 of 10/734,337 as the instant "a purge system for removing powder from said filter" is a more general way of stating "a source of pressurized gas, a conduit for placing said pressurized fluid in flow communication with said filter so as to purge said trapped powder from said filter."

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 13, 15, 17, 19, 40, 42 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doepel (4,292,017: figures 1, 2 and 4; column 2, lines 1-19 and column 5, line 53 to column 6, line 24).

Doepel teaches an apparatus for forming compressed dosage forms (tablets), the apparatus comprising: a suction source (vacuum pump-column 5, lines 61-63); a die cavity (38) having a first port for placing the die cavity in flow communication with said suction source (top opening of the die) to said die cavity, and a second port for placing the die cavity in flow communication with a supply of powder (bottom opening of the die), whereby the suction source assists said powder in flowing into the die cavity (see column 2, lines 1-9), a filter (116, 118, 119) disposed between the suction source (attached to conduit 120-see column 5, lines 53-67), a punches (40, 42) for compressing the powder in the die cavity so as to form compressed tablets (figure 5); and a powder recovery system for removing excess powder from the filter, which is a source of compressed air upwardly and the purged product is drawn off by vacuum (column 6, lines 10-24). The vacuum source above the filter to collect the purged powder blown out of the filter is being considered a recovery system. The examiner is drawing a clear line between recovery and recycling. Accordingly, claim 13 does not require recycling structure. It is inherent that the punches have the capability of

operating at a force of 20 kN. The die is disposed proximal to the die cavity as described above and shown in figure 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 13, 15-17, 40 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belousov et al (Soviet reference 662370 A: figures 1-3 and the English abstract) taken together with Bullock (5,667,158: figures 1 and 2; column 1, lines 16-30; and column 3, lines 31-47).

Belousov et al disclose an apparatus for compression molding of dosage forms (tablets), the apparatus comprising: a suction source (vacuum from the abstract attached to hose (16), a die cavity (4) having a first port (bottom opening of the die) for

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placing the die cavity in flow communication with the suction source (during the filling period-abstract), a second port (top opening of the die) for placing the die cavity in flow communication with a supply of powder, such that the suction source assists powder in flowing into the cavity; a filter (19) disposed between the suction source and the second port. The reference fails to disclose a powder recovery system to purge.

Bullock et al disclose a reclaim system for use with a pharmaceutical tablet compression machine, comprising: a filter (114) for collecting material dust, a compressed air source (128) to purge dust from the filter and a canister (112) which feeds dust back to a raw material source (C). The reference fulfills a long felt need for reusing raw material collected from the compression molding machine to save material costs.

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Belousov et al by adding a mechanism for recycling collected raw material as disclosed by Bullock et al for the purpose of saving on material costs by collecting discarded material from a compression molding machine.

9. Claims 14, 20, 41 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belousov et al taken together with Bullock et al as applied to claims 13, 15-17, 40 and 42-44 above, and further in view of Campbell (3,430,532: figures 2-6 and column 2, lines 3-28).

The combination of Belousov et al and Bullock et al disclose all claimed features except for the second port being located in a wall of the die wherein the opening is

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closed upon upward movement of a bottom plunger or the use of a feed shoe which covers a plurality of dies on a die table as it is rotated past the feed shoe.

Campbell discloses a compression molding machine having a die (18) having openings (98) connected to a vacuum source for assisting in the quick, uniform loading of the die and a feed head (84) covering a plurality of dies (18) on a die table (86).

It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Belousov et al by using a lateral opening of the die connected to a vacuum source for assisting in filling of the die as disclosed by Campbell for the purpose of assuring uniform filling of the plurality of dies. It would have been further obvious to modify the apparatus of Belousov et al by using a feed head that covers a plurality of dies on a die table as disclosed by Campbell for the purpose of feeding particulate material to a plurality of dies.

Conclusion

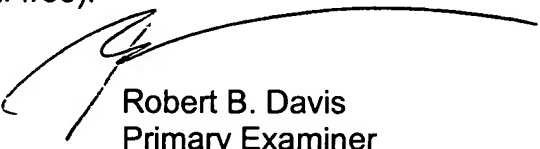
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The remaining references illustrate the state of the art of compression molding machines.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert B. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Robert B. Davis
Primary Examiner
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3/13/06